



News Release

IDAHO DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES
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STATE WANTS YOUR RECOMMENDATIONS ON REVISED WELL DRILLING STANDARDS

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State drilling managers are looking at revising rules that set down Idaho well drilling and construction standards and want to hear from drillers and the public about the kinds of provisions those new rules should contain, the Idaho Department of Water Resources announced today.

The new rules will address factors such as well locations, seals, well construction materials, development and completion requirements. The current rules were last revised in 1993.

Drilling managers say a lot has changed since 1993, especially in well drilling and construction techniques designed to safeguard ground water. Given the rapid development of urban areas of the state, IDWR drilling managers are anxious to have these new strategies and techniques incorporated into the rules governing well construction in the Gem state, officials said. There are approximately 4,500 to 5,000 new wells drilled every year in Idaho.

“Our goal is to improve the protection of Idaho’s ground water, improve the clarity of the rules, strengthen our ability to enforce the rules and standards and to make sure that Idaho well drillers continue to install high quality and cost-effective wells for Idaho residents,” said Jim Rush, with Rocky Mountain Environmental. The Idaho Falls firm was hired by IDWR to gather public input and prepare a list of recommendations and suggestions on whether or not to change the rules and, if so, to what degree.

A pair of informal public meetings have been set for early May at opposite ends of the state so officials can hear what people think about the present rules and take suggestions and ideas for changes of the rules.

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Well Construction Rules – Page 2 of 2

Rocky Mountain Environmental will compile the results of the public meetings and contacts with the Idaho drilling community and forward them to IDWR. Drilling managers then will use the public feedback to decide whether or not to move ahead with efforts to revise the existing rules.

The public meetings are schedule for May 5 in Coeur d’Alene and May 7 in Idaho Falls.

The May 5 Coeur d’Alene meeting runs 7-9 p.m. at the Idaho Department of Transportation, 600 W. Prairie Ave. The May 7 Idaho Falls meeting runs from 7-9 p.m. at the AmeriTell Inn, 645 Lindsay Blvd.

For more information or to provide comments about the rules, contact Rush at (208) 524-2353; by fax at (208) 524-1795; or by email at: jrush@rockymountainenvironmental.com.

The meetings will be held in facilities that meet the accessibility requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act. If you need assistance to attend, participate in or understand the meetings, please contact Rush in advance so arrangements can be made.